Father Swears in Son During Union Meeting

Finance Committee officer Dave Emerson swore in the new group of 30 apprentices, which included his son, Todd Emerson (third from left), during the July 14 LU 441 meeting.

The swearing-in was conducted statewide via video conferencing. Other new apprentices were Elijah McCray, Eric Craver, Brett Wooden, Jeff Windel, Dustin Gilbert, Jay Fishburn, Mike Williams, Aaron Hower, Danny Smith, Greg Bush, Billy Breshears, Jeremy Price, Jason Underwood, Rashan Tubbs, Chad Brucken, Michael Flores, Jason Comstock, Thomas Toelkes, Shawn Quarles, Daniel Green, Taylor Markey, Joe Jackson, Marc McCully, Joey Perrino, Brian Burke, Thomas R. Luper, Nicholas E. Rhodes, Joshua J. Huff and Shawn C. Shoemaker.

Topeka-area Labor Unions Host Labor Day Parade September 1, 2008

Downtown Topeka, Kansas Parade starts at 11 a.m.
Festivities follow at the Capitol Grounds with Speakers, Kid Games, Jazz Band, Free Hot Dogs, Drinks and Snacks!

For more information, call Ginger Smoot at (785) 235-2301
Pamela Bonjour-Glotzbach at (785) 233-1881
Amy Robinson at (785) 235-0262

Business Manager’s Report

Let me begin by congratulating and welcoming your newly-elected Local 441 Officers, which are highlighted in this addition of the Kansas Direct Pipeline, and thank you to the past officers for their valuable service and commitment to Local 441. I also want to personally thank the membership for allowing me to continue serving as your Business Manager. Together, we have been able to move this local in a direction that has gained us recognition and respect, not only in Kansas, but also throughout the UA.

We have gained market share and supplied our contractors with highly-skilled manpower that is second-to-none in our industry. Politicians seek us out for our insight and advice concerning labor issues. We have been able to establish ourselves with community leaders and are recognized and seen as an essential part of our communities. But, our work has just begun. There is much more yet to accomplish. We must continue to let owners and end users know that if they need piping or mechanical work of any kind installed at their facility, the best contractors to call are the Union Contractors that utilize Local 441 Craftsmen. You have my commitment as your Business Manager that we will not let up. I will continue to work with your elected Officers and Business Representatives as a cohesive team for the benefit of you the membership and this Local Union.

We must also continue to strive to make Local 441 a local we can all be proud of. It is essential that we pull together as a united group, working for the brotherhood and focusing on what is best for all, not just a few. This is something each of us can work toward, from the first-year apprentice to the life member. When the opportunity is presented to get involved in your Local Union, take advantage of it. Make certain that your financial obligations to this local and the United Association are current. This not only ensures you a voice, but also supports the organizations that fight to protect your working conditions and strives to collectively make sure you receive a fair pay and solid benefits for the skillful work you perform.

Since the last newsletter, apprentice applications and interviews have taken place. We had several excellent candidates and the decisions made by the members of the various Joint Apprenticeship Committees to determine which applicants would be accepted has been a difficult one. Currently we have taken in 45 new first-year apprentices statewide. This is directly related to the amount of work we have in 441’s jurisdiction.

As we move through the summer months, everyone seems to get even busier both at home and on our job sites. But even though you may be on a tight schedule, take time to observe proper safety precautions. Our Union stresses this, our contractors expect this, and our common sense demands this. Don’t take shortcuts with safety. We all want everyone to stay safe and healthy and return home to your families each night in the same condition.

Remember, if you have a concern at your jobsite let your Steward know. If you don’t feel it is getting resolved, contact your area Business Representative. We will do whatever we can to get it resolved. This process also applies to something occurring on a jobsite or with the Local Union that you may not understand.

In conclusion, have no doubt, as a member you have every right to know and understand anything we as your elected Officers are doing to serve you. If you have any questions about your union in general, I encourage you to pick up the phone and call or stop by the hall.

There is nothing we can do to stop unjustified rumors, but we can be here to serve you and answer your questions. Not only will we answer your questions, but if necessary, we will provide you with the facts and proof to back it up. That is my pledge as your Business Manager.

Work smart, work safe, and may God bless you and your families.
Ballot Counting

By Kerry Stine, Director, PPATKS, and Chair of the Election Committee for Local 441

I would like to take this opportunity to explain the process used by the ballot committee to count the ballots mailed in for the June 20, 2008, Officer Election.

The members of the ballot committee met on the morning of June 20, 2008, at 7:30 a.m., at the office of Richard Morrow, CPA. We would not finish until 7:00 p.m. After a short explanation to the candidate observers, the lockbox containing the key to the post office box was opened. Four locks had to be removed to open the box. Three committee members and Richard Morrow each held a different lock key. The Committee and the observers then went to the post office and retrieved the ballots from the Post Office Box. The envelopes were then taken by Richard Morrow back to his office where the ballots were counted.

927 ballots were mailed out to the eligible membership. The pieces of mail returned were counted and recounted for a total of 636. Not all of the pieces of mail were return envelopes for the election. Some return envelopes were used for other purposes such as paying dues.

Of the 636 pieces of mail, it was determined that there were 615 signature envelopes to be checked for eligibility. Of the 615 signature envelopes, 596 had followed the instructions completely with a signature and the correct UA card number. The signature envelopes were then opened and separated from the ballot envelopes. The ballot envelopes were counted to ensure the 596 total. At this time there was no way to trace a particular ballot back to the individual that filled it out.

The ballot envelopes were opened by a member of the ballot committee, handed to another member who placed a sequential number on the ballot. The ballot was then handed to another member of the committee and placed under a document camera and projected on a screen for all the committee members and observers to see. The ballot results were read aloud for all to hear. If a mistake in reading was made, it was caught by someone in the room and corrected. As the result for each office was read, it was entered into a spreadsheet on Richard Morrow’s computer by Richard Morrow and that was also projected onto a screen for all in the room to see. If a mistake was made while entering the results, it was caught by someone in the room and corrected.

The spreadsheet was designed to do several tasks. First, it speeded up the counting process by providing an easy way to enter each vote. The first letter of a candidate’s last name would enter the full last name. Second, it provided a method of checking the accuracy of what was entered because a numbered line on the spreadsheet corresponded to a particular ballot. If there was a question later, the ballots could be cross-checked against the printed results. Third, it provided a constant check of the number of ballots counted. Each line for an officer position had three possible options.

“None” if no vote was cast for any of the candidates running for that position, “invalid” if too many candidates were voted for in a particular position or they could “vote” for their candidate of choice. The total of those three possible answers were automatically tallied and crosschecked against the number of the ballot being counted. Finally, the votes for each candidate were automatically tallied as they were entered. All could see the totals as they were entered. This allowed everyone in the room to verify that each vote was counted accurately and added to the correct candidate’s total accurately.

It was the desire of every committee member that all our actions would be honest and trustworthy and no matter what the outcome, the members of UA Local 441 would know that we did everything in our power to assure a fair and accurate counting of the vote.

I would like to thank Chase Williams, Leon Williamson Jr. and Herbert (Huck) Parsons IV who served with me on the committee. Their input and insight made this election run as smoothly as it did. I would also like to thank Richard Morrow, CPA, Morrow and Company, for his truly professional manner and at times guidance, to help make sure the ballot counting process was above reproach. I also want to thank the candidate observers, Steve Hogard, Ed Mainey and Lonny Wright. They came to observe the process in a brotherly manner and helped to ensure for the candidates and the membership a fair and accurate count. They also provided suggestions and comments that will help make future elections run even smoother.

Most of all, I would like to thank the membership of UA Local 441 that participated in this election. It is your active participation that provides direction for this UA Local 441 a shining star among the construction trades.

JOB HOTLINE:

Dial (316) 269-2472 or (316) 269-4352

Please wait for the voice mail to answer before going to the next step

Press 1 for the Wichita Zone
Press 2 for the Topeka Zone
Press 3 for the Lawrence Zone
Press 4 for the Frontenac Zone

Once you make a selection and hear the information you may stay on the line to make another Zone selection.

You can call the HOTLINE 24 hours a day!

LOCAL UNION #441 Officers, Committee and Staff

Jerry D. Short, President
Gib Lane, Vice-President
Richard L. Taylor, Business Manager and Financial Secretary-Treasurer
(316) 265-4291

John Crusinberry, Recording Secretary
Mark Hromek, Sergeant-at-Arms

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES/ORGANIZERS
Bill Urton, Dispatcher (316) 265-4291
John Shepherd, Jr. (316) 265-4291
Kirk Miller, Sr. (785) 354-8539
Denis Wittman (785) 843-3151
Mike Wolownik (620) 231-4280
Phil Petty (785) 539-8977

OFFICE STAFF
Angela Hermann
Jolene Senter
Carol Ann Lewis

EXECUTIVE BOARD
Phil Green
Dennis Wingert
Jeff Robertson
Dan McCulloch

FINANCE COMMITTEE
David E. Emerson
Bill Lorg
T. J. Strickland

EXAMINERS
Four vacancies

BYLAWS COMMITTEE
If you have any questions or comments regarding 441 by-laws, please feel free to contact one of your By-Laws Committee members.
Jerry Short (316)733-9511
Vic Rider (913)721-5489
Dan McCulloch (785)286-0774

There is no "union" without "U."
Frontenac Area

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

It has been a great three years for Local 441!

We have moved forward in great strides and will continue to do so for years to come. It has been an honor to serve you as Business Representative of LU 441. I believe with leadership and teamwork we will overcome any and all hurdles that arise in the future. As Patrick Henry so famously stated, “United we stand, divided we fall.” That truly applies to the brotherhood and sisterhood of LU 441.

We have set some new goals for LU 441 in S/E Kansas and with your continued teamwork, we will accomplish them. Now that our election is over, it is time to turn our attention to the upcoming State, Federal and National elections. If you know of anyone who is not registered to vote or cannot get out to vote, please do your part to assist and encourage them to do so.

We have some very contentious democratic races this year and it is important that voter turnout reach an all-time high.

Again, “Thank You.” Please feel free to contact me at anytime for your questions or concerns. My door is always open!

Fraternally Yours,
Mike Wolownik (602) 231-4280
Frontenac Business Representative
103 Mendicki Dr. Frontenac, KS 66763

Wichita Area

Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

As always I want to begin by thanking all of you for your efforts on and off the job in making Local #441 the premier organization in the piping industry. Each day I reflect upon our local union past, present, and future. We have come a great distance. In meeting with the retired members, they remind me of past struggles won in terms of contract negotiations, pensions, and projects completed. Our heritage has always been and will continue to be the backbone of the organization as we embark upon the task of creating a legacy for future members to follow.

The Wichita area continues to create job opportunities at a steady pace. My work continues to revolve around community involvement and recruiting new members both as journeymen and apprentices. Our local union will always protect the jurisdiction of the United Association and promote the prosperity of its membership. In doing so, we must educate all those to be the very best craftsmen and instill a professional attitude toward a job well done.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you who took the time to exercise your right and privilege to vote in the recent election. As stated in the UA Oath and Obligation, “I will at all times promote its prosperity and usefulness.” This statement stands as a reminder to all members (1) keep current on your union dues (2) attend all meetings faithfully (3) exercise your voting power. This is a cornerstone upon which our union is built.

Fraternally,
John H. Shepherd Jr. (316) 265-4291
Wichita Area Business Representative

Topeka Area West

Fair Contractors that employ Local Union #441 members have increased their workload and demand for skilled manpower.

A large number of members that have responded to this need in the past are employed elsewhere and no longer available locally. UA members from other Locals have helped #441 meet the demands, but are temporary, return home when work is available and are increasingly more difficult to find. This is understandable and we appreciate the time they do help us out.

Another source of skilled manpower has been the unrepresented craftsmen in the area. Many have left their employer, stepped out of their comfort zone, and joined the Membership of Local Union #441.

New members from the non-union sector are helping build #441’s workforce and increase market share. Without them we would face an impossible task. On the other hand, #441’s current and past membership has provided the foundation for each new member to earn decent wages, health insurance, retirement benefits, training and working conditions.

Only by working together as Brothers, can we maintain and secure this foundation for future #441 members to build on.

Phil Petty (785) 539-8977
Organizer/Agent
**Viega Project McPherson, KS**

General Foreman Mark Laird and Foreman Bob Turnbough.

(L-R) Mark Laird, General Foreman; Chris Warkentin; Jeff Gilbert; Merlin Porter; Mike Warkentin; Lynn Potter; Bob Turnbough, Foreman; Matt Myers; Steve Atwood.

**Salina Hospital Project**

(L-R Standing) John Shepherd, Jr., Business Rep; Brent Carlson; Bill Swigert; Lance Estes; Job Foreman; Shane Glazier; Kevin McAllister, General Foreman; John Shepherd, Sr.; Bill Wylie; Jamin Wayne. (L-R Kneeling) Mike Gentry and Al Rump.

General Foreman Kevin McAllister and Foreman Lance Estes.

Visit YOUR Website: www.UA441.org
Powerhouse Project  Tecumseh, KS

(L-R) Jeff McDonald, Job Steward; Jimmy Wells; Shelby McDonald; Garry Perrymann; Justin Dryden.

Brad Bell, General Foreman/Days, and Ron Carriger, General Foreman/Nights.

Jon Warren

Mike Miller

Ira Finney

vote vote vote vote vote vote vote vote vote vote

Words to Live By
Give more and take less, and always give something back;
Take responsibility for myself and don’t place blame on or wait for others;
Live with integrity and courage, with an eye to the future of us all;
Look at the world and think “This is ours,” not “This is mine”;
Ask how I can help and what can I contribute, instead of how much more I can have;
Look out of windows instead of staring into mirrors, and see past the narrow confines of myself;
Act with compassion and tolerance in all things and to everyone;
Know that sometimes mine isn’t the only way, but only one more way to try;
Try to understand more, accept more and judge less,
love more and hate less.
- V. Worsham

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE.
ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?
WATCH YOUR MAIL FOR IMPORTANT ELECTION MATERIALS.

Job Hotline: (316) 269-2472
Lawrence Area

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Congratulations to all the newly elected members on your positions. With your help we know that we will continue to move in a positive direction.

We would also like to thank the past elected members for the help they have provided in the last three years.

The work in the Lawrence area is continuing to be strong. Both Fab shops, Hospital, Berry Plastics, American Eagle, and numerous other jobs on the KU Campus continue to provide employment.

Be sure and register to vote in the upcoming elections. This will be a very important election that will benefit labor. So be sure and support all your favorite candidates.

Fraternally yours,
Brother Denis Wittman (785) 843-3151
Lawrence Business Representative
930 E. 28th Street Lawrence, KS 66046

Topeka Area East

Brothers and Sisters,

The 2A area is keeping steady work with Fort Riley, Stormont Hospital, and some schoolwork taking up the slack from powerhouse outages. We also have the steady industrial at Goodyear, Del Monte, Frito Lay, and the cellophane plant. Our service industry has had a little increase with Dave Price’s shop picking up 3 journeymen.

We have a lot of work to do securing more work for the future with the veto of the Sunflower units and a rough economy. Usually a presidential election year helps the work, but that is yet to be seen with the gas prices, illegal immigrants, and grocery store inflation. Let’s vote to fix it this fall.

Fraternally yours,
Kirk W. Miller, Sr. (785) 354-8539
Topeka Business Representative
3906 NW 16th St. Topeka, KS 66618

M.I.N.K. Pipe Trades Convention

The Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas Pipe Trades Association (MINK) will hold their 2008 convention at Lake Ozark in Missouri.

The two-day convention will be held on Friday, Sept. 5 and Saturday, Sept. 6. A golf tournament will be held on Thursday, Sept. 4.

LU441 delegates attending the convention are Richard Taylor, Jerry Short, Gib Lane, Bill Urton, John Shepherd, Kirk Miller, Denis Wittman, Mike Wolownik, Phil Petty. Some area contractors will also attend the event.

Niles D. Barnett, 56, died May 18, 2008. Most recently of Wichita, Ks. Brother in good standing for 17 years.


Raymond L. Cockrum, 76, died July 17, 2008. Most recently of Wichita, Ks. Member in good standing for 56 years.

G.L. Colson, Jr., 74, died July 29, 2008. Most recently of Overbrook, Ks. Member in good standing for 50 years.


James D. Kelley, 76, died May 2, 2008. Most recently of Park City, Ks. Brother in good standing for 44 years.

Gerald N. McIntosh, 77, died May 29, 2008. Most recently of Scranton, Ks. Brother in good standing for 17 years.

Johnie A. Poznich, 72, died July 20, 2008. Most recently of Fort Scott, Ks. Brother in good standing for 18 years.


Visit YOUR Website: www.UA441.org
KANSAS DIRECT PIPELINE Page 7

August 2008

UA Local #441
Plumbers & Pipefitters
Monthly Union Meetings

KANSAS LOCAL #441 UNION MEETINGS
Second Monday of every month, 7 p.m.
(316) 265-4291/1330 E. 1st Street, Wichita
Next Meeting Dates:
Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13
We televise our monthly union meeting to the outlying areas over the Internet to allow easier access and participation by the members that reside in those areas.

UA LOCAL #441 RETIREE MEETINGS

Frontenac Area Retirees
Meet each Tuesday morning at Home Café, Cherokee, KS at 8 a.m.

Lawrence Area Retirees
No monthly meetings scheduled at this time. We encourage a group to establish meetings and let the Hall in Wichita know date, time, location.
You are also welcome to attend other area retiree meetings.

Topeka Area Retirees
Meet every Wednesday morning at Hardee’s at 21st and Wanamaker at 8 a.m.

Wichita Area Retirees
Meeting at the Hall, 1330 E. 1st Street N., on the first Wednesday every month at 10 a.m.
Breakfast the second Wednesday of every month (except December) at 9 a.m. at Spears Restaurant, 4323 W. Maple, Wichita, KS.

Note: All retirees and spouses and former members’ widows are welcome to attend any of the area meetings.

Thank You...
Brother Dennis Wells and his family would like to thank LU441 members for the collections that were taken up at various job sites to help with expenses during Dennis’ recent hospital stay and recovery.

CONTACTS

Wichita (316) 265-4291 Training (316) 267-8508
Topeka (785) 354-8539 Training (785) 234-2006
Lawrence (785) 843-3151
Frontenac (620) 231-4280 Training (620) 724-6115
Local Union 441 Website: www.ua441.org

The Health & Welfare Office handles your local pension information, 401k, and general questions regarding your health insurance (such as your status in qualifying for insurance benefits.)

If you have specific questions regarding your insurance, such as a list of doctors, please refer to the numbers listed below for Blue Cross and Delta Dental.

Ben Newhouse is Local 441’s Independent Financial Advisor.
Members, please feel free to give him a call at 1-866-577-7101 for assistance and advice with your Mass Mutual investment account.

Health & Welfare Office
www.ppi-fund.org
(316) 264-2339 or (800) 423-6517

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas
www.BCBSKS.com
(800) 432-3990 or (785) 291-4180

Delta Dental of Kansas
www.DeltaDentalKS.com
(800) 234-3375 or (316) 264-4511

If you have a Pension through the United Association, the National Pension office is where you call for any questions related to your pension.

If you are close to retirement and are ready to start the paperwork, please request an application for a retirement packet from National. Also request a work contribution history report from National Pension as this will assist you in the process.

National Pension (800) 638-7442

Local Pension/KA Annuity
(316) 264-2339 or (800) 423-6517

United Association Website: www.ua.org

Hee-hee!

One day a man came home and was greeted by his wife dressed in a very sexy nightie. “Tie me up,” she purred, “and you can do anything you want.”

So he tied her up and went golfing.

A woman came home, screeching her car into the driveway and ran into the house. She slammed the door and shouted at the top of her lungs, “Honey, pack your bags! I won the Lottery!”

The husband said, “Oh my gosh, what should I pack?
Beach stuff or mountain stuff?”

“Doesn’t matter,” she replied. “Just get out!”

Thank You...
Brother Dennis Wells and his family would like to thank LU441 members for the collections that were taken up at various job sites to help with expenses during Dennis’ recent hospital stay and recovery.

Job Hotline: (316) 269-2472
Newly-Elected Officers (2008 -- 2011)

- Jerry Short, President
- Gib Lane, Vice President
- John Crustinberry, Recording Secretary
- Richard Taylor, Business Manager/Financial Secretary
- Mark Hromek, Sergeant-at-Arms

New officers being sworn in.

Executive Board Members

- Phil Green
- Dennis Wingert
- Jeff Robertson
- Dan McCulloch

Finance Committee Members

- Dave Emerson
- T.J. Strickland
- Bill Lorg

Thank you to outgoing officers for their dedication and past service to our union.